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upon the fact that the insurgents were at least as guilty as the Spaniards of the misery and starvation in Cuba, and that the Cubans were far greater criminals in the eyes of international law than the Spaniards whose reconcentration policy the Law of Nations does not in fact unreservedly condemn. He need not have been as cautious in stating the reasons for Senator Sherman's appointment as Secretary of State. All the world knows it was to make way for Mark Hanna—the evil genius of the McKinley administration—in the Senate. Great as are the merits of the *New York Nation* in some respects, it may be doubted whether this excellent weekly is ever a safe guide as an indication of American public sentiment.

If any portions of the work are to be marked for special commendation, the reviewer would select the chapters on the Holy Alliance, the Development of the Monroe Doctrine, and the Ten Years' War (including the case of the *Virginus*). There is an excellent index.

Sectionalism in Virginia from 1776 to 1861. By CHARLES HENRY AMBLER, Ph.D. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1910. Pp. ix, 366.)

THIS book treats Virginia history from 1776 to 1861 and, though it professes only to review those matters which entered into or bore upon the long sectional quarrel between the eastern and the western parts of the state, taken altogether, it is the best history of the Old Dominion since 1776 we have; for the sectional quarrel there, as in the nation at large, was the dominant issue of every crisis, of almost every legislative session.

There are ten chapters, an excellent bibliography, and twelve valuable maps. The first chapter sets forth the geographical and racial differences which were fundamental factors in the politics of the colony for twenty or thirty years prior to the Revolution. Then follow accounts of the conflict of interest between up-country and low-country in 1776, in the period of 1783–1789, and during the struggle between the Jefferson party and the Federalists. There is an excellent chapter on the Rise of the National Republican Party which must be welcome to students of Virginia history who have not hitherto had the tangled personal politics of the so-called era of good feeling analyzed and cleared up.

The best work of the book is, however, that which treats of the Convention of 1829–1830, to which thirty-eight pages are devoted. Forty pages are given to the account of the quarrels over internal improvements, a belated attempt to settle the slavery problem, and Nullification. The remaining one hundred and twenty pages deal with the Whig period, the reform movement of 1850, education, the churches, and political parties. The bibliography of ten pages is perhaps the best we have for this period of Virginia history and it shows how thoroughly the author has explored his field. Many pamphlets, some manuscripts, and practically all the known newspaper files have been consulted.

During all these years the party alignments of Virginia were largely though not exclusively based on the differences which nature had imposed. And these differences were sharply accentuated by the fact that the Scotch-Irish and German migrations to Virginia about the middle of the eighteenth century affected almost exclusively the up-country. And there was no great staple which, as in the lower South, could be grown in all Virginia and thus render her interests homogeneous. However, the sharp dispute about slavery which marked the first half of Mr. Ambler's period was in a fair way to final settlement when the Civil War came on. Slavery had made its impress on West Virginia; besides, the up-country had come to fear the free more than the slave. Western Virginians were quite content that slavery should prevail in the low-country, especially now that they had gained practical control of the legislature and had named the governors in every election; and they were increasing in population more rapidly than the east.

Throughout the book there is manifest an unbiassed and detached judgment, devotion to truth, and clear historical insight. It is refreshing to find a scion of one of Virginia's old families writing so frankly and freely about ante-bellum institutions in the South, witness the chapter on the Convention of 1829-1830 or the treatment of the struggle between the Methodist factions for control in northwestern Virginia.

It may not appear grateful to suggest even slight faults in a book which gives such satisfaction as does this, but it seems to the reviewer that closer attention to the Convention of 1776 might have revealed more about the contending forces—the failure of the Liberal leaders; and the author has not quite appreciated the rôle of Jefferson during the last dozen years of his life. However, these are minor matters. Professor Ambler has done well a rather difficult task. He has produced the best book on Virginia since the appearance of Philip Bruce's *Economic History* in 1896.

WILLIAM E. DODD.

British Interests and Activities in Texas, 1838-1846. By EPHRAIM DOUGLASS ADAMS, Ph.D., Professor of History in Leland Stanford Jr. University. [The Albert Shaw Lectures on Diplomatic History, 1909.] (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1910. Pp. viii, 267.)

THE title of this book sufficiently indicates its scope, except that most of the "activities" that it mentions took place at London, Mexico, and Paris—a fact, however, which does not lessen their importance. The narrative could easily have been made more readable; but the author did not choose to give himself that trouble in addition to all the rest of his labor, and the reviewer is not disposed to complain. On the other hand, the substance of the book cannot escape criticism, for it contains numerous errors, chargeable doubtless to no lack of ability or sound intentions